

REMARKS

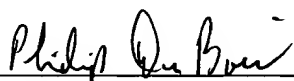
Further to the amendment of August 24, 2004, applicants submit herewith a translation of French Application 97/02369 filed on February 27, 1997. As noted in the amendment of August 24, 2004, applicants believe that WELTER fails to qualify as prior art. The WELTER publication was published after the priority date of the present application. In light of the enclosed translation, applicants believe that the present application now complies with 37 CFR §1.55 and respectfully request that all rejections that rely on the WELTER publication be withdrawn.

In view of the amendment of August 24, 2004 and the present amendment, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- translation of French Patent Application FR 97/02369, filed on February 27, 1997.